

Advice for Warwick District Council on household formation relating to Gypsy and Traveller pitches

In September 2015 Warwick District Council sought advice from the Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford on updating projected household formation rates from the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) produced in November 2012. Table i below outlines these revised projections. These are provided for the following time periods:

- 2012-2016 – 5 years
- 2017-2021 – 5 years
- 2022-2026 – 5 years
- 2027-2029 – 3 years
- 2030-2031 – 2 years

In addition, in order to provide Warwick District Council with a range of options, alternative estimates, based on projected growth of either 2% and 3% per annum (compound) have been provided.

Table i: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople residential pitch need (2012 – 2029/31)

	Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Need Total (No. of pitches) 2012-2029		Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Need Total (No. of pitches) 2012-2031	
	2% pa	3% pa	2% pa	3% pa
Current authorised residential provision (pitches)	0	0	0	0
Residential need 2012 - 2016 (pitches)	25	25	25	25
Residential need 2017 -2021 (pitches)	2	3	2	3
Residential need 2022 -2026 (pitches)	2	3	2	3
Residential need 2027 -2029 (pitches)	1	2	1	2
Residential need 2030 -2031 (pitches)	-	-	1	2
Total residential need for period (pitches)	30	33	31	35

The 2012 GTAA used a figure of 3% per annum compound and the rationale for this is provided in the GTAA. However, in March 2014 Brandon Lewis (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State within the Department for Communities and Local Government) confirmed in correspondence with Andrew Selous MP

that the 3% household growth rate does not represent national planning policy.¹ In order to address this development a suggestion of using either 1.5% or 2.5% has been provided by other consultants involved in producing GTAAs². The soundness of this lower growth rate is currently being tested through the planning process.

Data analysis of household growth of Gypsy and Traveller households remains in its infancy, making it difficult to accurately determine the rate of growth with any certainty. Only one UK Census (2011) included Gypsies and Travellers as a distinct ethnic category, and many GTAAs have taken a sampling approach within their methodologies which has predominantly relied on self-reports from households. Opinion Research Services who an alternative figure have sought a statistical basis for its use. A key component in arriving at this figure is birth rates of Roma populations in Hungary (see ORS, 2015 p.10). However, it is not at all clear how comparable Roma from Hungary and UK Gypsy and Traveller populations are in terms of their characteristics. Although a study by Parry et al (2004) into the health related experiences of the Gypsy and Traveller community is significant in outlining the health issues associated with UK Gypsy and Traveller populations, there remains a dearth of studies detailing mortality rates of Gypsy and Traveller populations. It is therefore unclear how much validity these lower household formation rates have. Furthermore, it is difficult to predict how the population of Gypsies and Travellers will develop if the supply of pitch based accommodation increases.

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¹ See a copy of the letter here

<http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/file/3022613>

² See Opinion Research Services (2015) Technical Note: Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates available from <http://www.gct-jcs.org/Documents/Examination-Documents/Library/Matter-4-Statement---ORS-Technical-Note-GT-Household-Formation-and-Growth-Rates.pdf>